state :

(a) whether the recent Commonwealth Summit had asked the President of Zambia and the Prime Ministers of Australia, Bahamas, Canada, India the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe to develop, with the Commonwealth Secretary General, the modalities of the efforts to assist the process of political dialogue with South Africa;

(b) whether any action has been initiated to pursue the course of dialogue; and

(c) if not, the stage at which the matter stands and the steps being taken to chalk out the programme of collective action ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Secretary General of the Commonwealth is in the process of finalising the constitution of the group of eminent persons, envisaged under the Commonewealth Accord on Southern Africa, to facilitate a political dialouge in South Africa. The group is expected to have its first meeting shortly in London where it will chalk out its programme of work.

1944. [*Transferred to the 16th December 1985*]

Issue of passports to extremists in Lucknow and Bareilly

1945. SHRI J.P. GOYAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Navbharat Times' of 6th and 11th November, 1985 to the effect that officers and staff of the passport offices at Lucknow and Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh have been engaged for years in issuing passports to the extremists for consideration.

(b) whether an investigation has been made in this regard ;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) what are the particulars of the said officers involved; and

(e) what action has been taken against them and to cancel all passports issued to the extremists

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Passports in all cases were issud only after obtaining the clear security reports from the State C.I.D. Head Quarters at Lucknnow and necessary identity and citizen ship verification reports from local Police authorities. These reports did not indicate that the applicants were 'extremists', or that there were any grounds on which passports could be refused to them.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Flow of militant Sikhs to Ecuador

1946. SHRI J. P. GOYAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Govt. are aware that Sikh militants besides those unemployed in West Asia, who sought political asylum in Britain and other West European countries, are being flown to Ecuador;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the reaction of the Govt. of India thereto;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with the Govt. of Ecuador, and

(d) if so, what has been the outcome thereof ?